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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3682  
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS IMMEDIATE  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE 9453  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE 2929  
RHHMUNA/CDRUSPACOM HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//OSD/ISA/AP// IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 004508

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STATE FOR EAP, PM, S/CT, AND EAP/MTS  
USPACOM ALSO FOR FPA HUSO  
SECDEF/OSD/ISA/AP (LAWLESS/TOOLAN/BAILEY)  
JOINT STAFF/J5 (WILKES/ROBINSON/CLEMMONS)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/27/2031  
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SUBJECT: OCTOBER 27 UPDATE ON JOLO OPERATIONS

REF: MANILA 4439 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: (U) Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Scott Bellard  
for reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

11. (C/REL AUS) "Operation Ultimatum," the ongoing Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) effort to capture or kill the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) and Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) leadership on the island of Jolo, is ending its 13th week, with no sign of letting up. ASG leaders Khadaffy Janjalani and Abu Solaiman, and JI operatives Dulmatin and Umar Patek are believed to have moved to the southeast corner of the island in an effort to escape AFP pressure. Philippine Marines, Scout Rangers, and Special Forces raided the terrorists' suspected location on October 26, but failed to find the fugitives. The AFP is planning follow-up operations against other possible targets.

12. (C/REL AUS) The Philippine Navy, supported by US forces, continues its impressive blockade of Jolo, having conducted 2975 maritime interdictions since the August 1 start of the operation. Naval assets have been shifted to the southeast to prevent any potential escape attempt by sea.

13. (C/REL AUS) The most significant event this week was the October 20 surrender of three low-level ASG operatives in the Patikul region of central Jolo. The three operatives had deserted the group protecting Khadaffy Janjalani and turned themselves in to the AFP. Exhausted and malnourished, the men complained that they had been misled and deserted by their leadership. When informed of the US rewards offered for the capture of the senior terrorists, the three ASG captives said they would have turned in Janjalani and the others if they had known of the program.

14. (C/REL AUS) The AFP has already begun redistributing Rewards for Justice leaflets in all known ASG base camp locations and along suspected ASG lines of communication. The AFP is also circulating rewards material in civilian areas where the JI and ASG leaders are believed to have support or be hiding.

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